

Application No. 09/645,590
Amdt. Dated Sept. 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 3, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15, and 16 were pending in the instant application. The Examiner had previously indicated that claims 3, 5, 6, 8-13, 15, and 16 were withdrawn from consideration, but did not so indicate in the currently pending Office Action. Applicants request clarification as to the status of these claims. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 for clarity and to address the Examiner's concerns as discussed below. Support for the claim amendments can be found, *inter alia*, in the specification and claims as originally filed. The claim amendments do not introduce any new matter and thus, their entry is requested.

Examiner's Rejections of Claims 1 and 2

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as an improper process claim for lacking sufficient method steps.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite in light of the rejection of claim 1 and further with respect to the recitation of "administering an antagonist to said individual." It was unclear to the Examiner what was being antagonized.

In response, the Applicants believe that the amendments to claims 1 and 2 obviate these rejections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §112, respectively.

Examiner's Objection to Claim 4

The Examiner objected to claim 4 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, Applicants assert that the amendments to claims 1 and 2, from which claim 4 depend, overcomes the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to claim 4.


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Examiner's Withdrawal of Previous Rejections and Objections

The Examiner stated that "any rejection or objection made in the previous Official Action and not repeated herein is withdrawn."

In response, Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the withdrawal of these rejections and objections.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims satisfy the requirements of the patent statutes, are patentable over the prior art, and fully address the Examiner's concerns as set forth in the June 3, 2003 Office Action. Reconsideration of the instant application and early notice of allowance are requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if it is deemed to expedite allowance of the application.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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